

The Times Dispatch

Business Office...Times-Dispatch Building
30 South Ninth StreetSouth Richmond.....1020 Hull Street
Washington Bureau.....Munroe Building
 Petersburg Bureau.....192 N. Sycamore Street
 Lynchburg Bureau.....11th Eighth StreetBY MAIL. One Six Three One
POSTAGE PAID. Year, Mon., Sat., Mon.,
Daily with Sunday.....\$1.00 25¢ 15¢ 25¢
Sunday edition only.....25¢ 15¢ 10¢ 25¢By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service
Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg
On Week Days with Sunday.....15 cents
Sunday without Sunday.....10 cents
Sunday without Sunday.....15 centsEntered January 25, 1913, at Richmond, Va.
as second-class matter under act of Congress
of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1913.

THE PLEASANT FOOTBALL YEAR.

There are many pleasant things to look forward to for the football season of 1913. The sport has become friendlier, with increasing vigor and manliness. The open game, such as was so splendidly displayed on Thanksgiving in Richmond, is interesting, varie, full of romance, and seems to put a premium on great both of mind and body. The old plunge and crash, with its too frequent splitting and tearing of young men, is not missed by the spectator. There is nothing more tragic about the present sport, but the record of about fourteen fatal accidents this fall, though extremely regrettable, is not more serious than the record of other many outdoor sports. The list of deaths from shooting in the field is far longer than that of football.

The desire of the spectator for an even game, full of kicking, running and passing, has had a wholesome influence on the sport. The numbering of players for identification, and other similar signs of public opinion at work, promise even a speedier kind of play.

Indeed, we believe the whole attitude toward college football has changed for the better. We have perceived that it is not a combat of gladiators, but of nervy, well-muscled, virile youths who should enjoy the contests as sport, not as mimic warfare. Strict penalties for roughness and slugging, real eligibility rules and a general seating for the "amateur" spirit have helped for cleanliness. We hear less and less about professionals who play for money, and all the old vicious deal has fallen into disrepute. The raw football player is both a scholar and a gentleman, as witness the pleasant news that during "Bobby" Glenn, one of Virginia's heroes, has passed the difficult examinations for a Rhodes scholarship. This youngster will no longer be an ornament to Oxford—where he will get there—for his skill and football brains.

In this field, we are tempted to view the example of a South Atlantic football champion as a good thing. The fact that so many teams have a claim to new blood the sport must have. Perhaps a universal "tie" with North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and the other states sharing the honors, will very harmonize the idea of college football. Inter-collegiate does not seem to be popular. North Carolina had a team last year, but the figures had been suppressed. In the present records of the total game, and the former eagerness to compete, we shall be able to meet all criticism with sharp contradiction.

HAS RICHMOND "TENEMENT DISTRICTS"?

The Times-Dispatch is asked in a letter printed elsewhere to refute certain statements made in an article on "The Progress of Good Housing," published in the American Review of Reviews. The gist of these statements is that Richmond has tenement districts, and that Richmond permits the use of water drawn from surface wells. Our correspondent is exactly right in asking that facts should be told of conditions in the South. Too often are we misrepresented by uninformed outsiders. From the report of the work on Richmond housing conditions by an expert investigator, we are able to state what may be regarded as the facts in the case.

This report says: "There is very little land crowding in Richmond at the present time. Aside from the fashionable apartment-houses, built for two to forty families, and the tenement houses between Seventeenth and Nineteenth Main and Venable Streets, the 'tenement evil' has scarcely been felt in Richmond. In the latter section, the tenement-houses are mostly two and three stories high, and house from two to five families each. Many of these are dark, poorly ventilated and extremely dirty and dilapidated."

The fact is Richmond has no tenement district in the sense of solid blocks of cheap structures crowded in every available foot with people. The term "tenement" is used here in a different meaning. We suppose our correspondent thinks we have no "tenement districts" that he has ever heard of like the abominations in New York's East Side. That we have evils of a serious kind is indicated in the above words.

As to the use of surface wells, the following figures are enlightening: Of a total of 473 houses for which returns were made concerning the water supply, 385, or 66 per cent, had city water in the yards; 115, or 22 per cent, had water within the houses; two houses had wells; forty-five houses had neither wells nor city water and fifteen houses had plumbing facilities, but the water had been turned off at the time of the inspection."

Apparently, then, there are wells used in Richmond still, though the number is comparatively very small. Yet investigation has shown that the unsavory anecdote related in this review might be true in isolated cases. Indeed, Richmond might well study the source of the water with which negro laundresses wash family clothes.

We cannot refrain from giving one more startling fact revealed by this investigation: Only thirteen of the houses visited had bathtubs.

The article quoted uses words loosely and generalizes on very slight data. Yet the fact we should be most interested in is to improve the real and grave conditions of housing in the community. These two charges happen to be unique in any large sense, but there are evils enough to keep us busy here. We shall be able to meet all criticism with sharp contradiction.

SOCIALISM'S PROGRESS IN GOVERNMENT.

The old order in government has changed materially during the life of the present generation. Remarkable alterations in the mass and the operation of government have been brought about. Within late years, the great transportation interests have been subjected to a form of regulation that is not far from management, and this year the Post-Office Department is absorbing the express business through the parcel post. Now an active movement has begun to bring the telephone into the same department, and so the absorption of both transportation and communication by the government is but a fact.

A number of Commonwealths, state interests is sold and many kinds of state pensions have already been established. Minimum wage laws are generally proposed. Such socialist innovations are making ground everywhere. The sum total of their gains is large. The elections of the present year demonstrate that the propaganda and the propagandists are, covering grounds.

A decade and a half ago nobody would have predicted what has occurred in Great Britain within recent years. In the conservative order such a man as Lloyd George was unthinkable and the possibility of such policies as he now propounds would have been deemed altogether negligible. Extravagance in England is already becoming social at many points.

Socialistic innovations are surely coming. Take the case of the Federal income tax. At first it was held unconstitutional by a bare majority of the United States Supreme Court after many years, it was passed as a constitutional amendment, and the argument for it was that it would take the form of an emergency measure. Already it is an established part of our fiscal system, and it is unlikely that at any time it will be abandoned. Old age pension and like measures will doubtless follow the same course. By all the authorities it was agreed that the Federal income tax would be put into effect, and it would stand up as a permanent law of water business of the country, unless some changes could be made.

It would not greatly surprise me if the socialists will finally succeed in getting the federal income tax, and the people will be taxed at a rate of 10 per cent. This would be a great blow to the business of the country, and it would mean that the federal income tax would be a burden on the people.

Thus defeats the New York Sun in the Virginia Folklore Society: The Old Dominion must be shamed for its materials of that which is the best of its world, science, which has all the charm of childhood and play. Old ballads, old songs, old poems, old legends and, besides, they might sing up the old songs in Virginia and get a chance to be heard, by the figures shown in the Journal of Education.

It would be a good idea to do for a member of the Legislature with an Honorable title in its materials of that which is the best of its world, science, which has all the charm of childhood and play. Old ballads, old songs, old poems, old legends and, besides, they might sing up the old songs in Virginia and get a chance to be heard, by the figures shown in the Journal of Education.

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Florida is shipping the first strawberries of the season. Maybe they will be cheap enough for the ordinary man to eat instead of potatoes.

About the only big sporting event we have left this year is to settle who is the greatest champion of Church Hill.

We trust Mrs. Pankhurst got a big turkey dinner before she went back to her hunger-striking.

The daily Consular Reports says whale fishing in South Africa is fine. Could we postpone trouble by mentioning this to Colonel T. R.?

The boy Scouts and the Pamunkey Indians came together, and as a result of the hostilities they got the turkey's goat.

That a man reaching for a falling cigar tumbled out of a window to his death will doubtless be used by some good folks to prove the injurious effects of the use of tobacco.

The North Carolina football team held a dubious compliment to Petersburg by picking that metropolis as a quiet place for the heroes to rest on the eve of the game.

After everything is about settled here is that bungling Atlanta wanting a regional bank of its own. Whether the regional banks were to be put in cities.

The London police commissioner is the reason London kills only twelve persons a year by automobile accidents, while New York kills 271 because of the subways for passengers under dangerous crossings. The British evidently prefers walking underground to being put there.

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